# **Research team visit to Africa RISING activities in the Upper East Region - Ghana**



# **Report**

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# **1. Introduction**

Representatives from World International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Vegetable Center (AVRDC), Savanna Agriculture Research Institute (SARI), Animal Research Institute (ARI), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) visited research and development activities of the Africa RISING project in the Upper East Region on the 22nd of August 2016. The objective of the visit was to inspect on-going activities, implementation challenges in phase 1, and opportunities for improvement in phase 2 if funded.

# **2. Background**

Most of the AR crop related activities in the region are implemented in technology parks that serve as research and demonstration fields where farmers are taught improved Agricultural technologies and at the same time data is collected for publications. There are currently six technologies being carried out in each park, namely: millet-groundnut strip cropping, maize-groundnut strip cropping, cowpea living mulch, maize leaf stripping, phosphorous level effects on groundnut varieties and plant spacing effects on groundnut varieties.

In addition, residue management for either soil fertility improvement or livestock feed in cereal-legume strip cropping systems is being tested with thirty farmers in each of the four intervention communities. The project also has a dry season vegetable project where lead farmers have been provided with facilities (Vegetable Hubs) to test and disseminate good practices for vegetable production.

# **3. Visits to technology parks**

Nyangua Technology Park was the first stop. The pack was flooded by water which obviously affects the trials. It was suggested that a flood-free land should be acquired for future activities; and IWMI and CIAT should test land and water management technologies to address flooding/water logging on farmlands. The team visited a lead vegetable farms in the same community. It was agreed that the hand-dug wells will be replaced by boreholes, and bigger overhead tanks installed. It was also made clear that new quotations for improving the gardens are ready for discussion and consideration with the AVRDC and IWMI teams.

The team then visited the Bonia Technology Park. The trials looked good compared with those at Nyangua. However, some members of team question the basis for inclusion of *Brachairia* as one of the three the three forage species being tested by the ARI. The Integrated Soil Fertility Management trial by SARI was also visited by the team where Dr. Kanton outlined the essence of the work to members. The team proceeded to the Samboligo Technology Park in the Bongo District after lunch. The trials there were also looked good.

# **4. Suggestions and comments**

* The vegetables, livestock and postharvest/value addition research and development activities should be more visible if Phase 2 is funded.
* Livestock technology parks could be established to test and evaluate and demonstrate different livestock related technologies.
* It will be appropriate to secure and fence land in each intervention community for research and demonstration in future to prevent damage of trials by roaming livestock. The various chiefs and land owners will be approached, if phase 2 is funded.
* AVRDC should strengthen collaboration on vegetable production with SARI and other national partners.
* There should be closer linkages between the AR projects in Ghana and Mali, including joint activities and transfer or exchange of technologies.
* AVRDC should beef up research and development on both dry and rainy season vegetable production in the region.
* IWMI and CIAT should implement visible research and development activities on land and water management on farmlands.
* IWMI should not restrict its activities only to the dry season, since there are opportunities for water harvesting to avoid water-logging on farm lands during the rainy season.
* Vegetable nurseries should be established in September to enable transplanting in the month of October to ensure the cycle completes before water becomes scares.

# **5. List of participants**

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| **No.** | **Name** | **Institution/Organisation** |
| 1 | Dr. Asomoah Larbi | IITA |
| 2 | Dr. Roger Kanton | SARI |
| 3 | Dr. Dr Jean Baptiste De La Salle Tignegre (Leader) | AVRDC, Mali |
| 4 | Dr Takemore Chagomoka (Production and Post-Harvest Scientist) | AVRDC, Mali |
| 5 | Dr Wubetu Legesse (Plant Protection Specialist) | AVRDC, Mali |
| 6 | Alpha Sidy Traore | AVRDC, Mali |
| 7 | Dr. Emmanuel Panya | ARI |
| 8 | Richard Appoh | IWMI |
| 9 | Augustine B. Boateng | IITA |
| 10 | Richard Boateng | AVRDC |
| 11 | Desire Naab Dickson | IITA |
| 12 | Eliasu Salifu | CIAT |

# **6. Selected photos**









